2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

642
178 the weakness of their position so long as they remain isolated the one from the other by jealousy and personal pride with the result that the States of Beihan, the Audhali, Dhala, the Fadli and the central State of Dathina have all intimated their desire to federate together, and discussions are in progress with the Colonial Office and the Governor on the practical implementation of their decision. The Aulaki Sheikh, also, from whose territory so many of the Levies and Guards are recruited, has signified his readiness to join a federation, and I am sure that other States will follow the lead which has been given them and hope that before this year is ended the Protectorate will have taken a major step forward.

642 Internally the Protectorate has not been free from disturb-
643 ance. In Lower Yafa Sultan Muhammed allowed himself to be swayed by Egyptian propaganda and deserted his charge, the lowland reaches of his State embracing the northern half of the rich cotton yielding Abiyan plain. He fled to the Yafa highlands and on into Yemen, taking with him the Lower Yafa Tribal Guards, which were of no moment, and the contents of his father's, the Sultan's Treasury amounting to £10,000 which did matter. The Assistant Adviser on the spot, who was himself an Arab, acted promptly and vigorously and the void left by the Tribal Guards was filled rapidly by Government Guards from Aden. There were no disturbances of any moment and the situation was never out of control. Sultan Mohd's defection was deplorable but understandable for he was ever a wayward and foolish fellow and his country is no worse for his absence.

• 687 Over to the West in the Sultanate of Lahej a very unhappy
669 position has arisen. It is nothing to do with the State's frontier with the Yemen which was at one time a continuous worry but recently has been unusually peaceful. The Sultan who was the first to approve federation in principle and the most difficult to deal with in the discussions which followed the 1954 meeting at Government House, in April of this year, left his State, presumably in protest at the arrest by the Governor's order of his Minister for Education, Abdullah bin Ali, one of the Jifri Saiyid. The order for arrest, which was on a charge of

seditious activity, included also the names of his brothers, Muhammed bin Ali Jifri, the Sultan's Chief Minister and Alawi bin Ali Jifri, both of whom succeeded in escaping to the Yemen. All three of these men who are Saiyids from Yeshbum in the Aulaki sheikhdom were well known to the Sultan, indeed they could be described as personal friends. Lahej was occupied temporarily by troops, and the Sultan, who was in Aden at the time, left for the United Kingdom shortly afterwards, leaving one of his cousins in charge of the State as his deputy. 687 • 669

There is not the slightest doubt that the Governor's action was fully justified and timely, nor is there any doubt that Lahej has for some time been a centre for pro-Nasser and anti-British propaganda. Shortly after the events recorded above, a raid was made on the Lahej village of Dar Saad, but a stone's throw from Sheikh Othman in the Colony. A detachment of Government Guards surrounded the village and a thorough search resulted in the seizure of no less than several tons of explosives and fireworks and arms and ammunition including automatic rifles. These automatic weapons could not have been obtained from either the Colony or the Protectorate.

In June Yahya Hiosi the Commandant of the Lahej "Army" fled to the Yemen with some of his troops and a considerable sum of money from the State Treasury. In July His Highness, Sir Ali bin Abdul Karim, left London for Rome and a day or two later Her Majesty's Government withdrew recognition from him as Sultan of Lahej.

Now let us turn to local events in the Colony. Shortly after I left Aden in 1956 the question of Qāt began to trouble the minds of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council. Qāt is a shrub cultivated in the Yemen and in Ethiopia and at Dhala in the Protectorate and looks something like a tea bush. The leaves are chewed while fresh and green and the practice is easily habit forming. The precise effect of the drug on the system is hard to explain, and medical opinion is divided about whether it is or is not deleterious. My own view is that taken in moderation it is, like many other stimulants, innocuous, but taken to excess it can be very harmful. It is expensive and 276

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

651 The Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16 of 1951), which allowed a draw-back of tax in the case of export of tobacco by air as well as by sea, defined more clearly the meaning of importation and removed any doubt that it is an offence for anyperson to deal in tobacco issued to Her Majesty's Forces at duty-free or reduced duty rates.

494 The Motor Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17 of 1951), which empowered the licensing authority to suspend the registration of a motor vehicle until any defects in such vehicle are satisfactorily remedied. It also made provision for a fixed date for the expiration and renewal of driving licences.

657 The Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance (No. 19 of 1951), which extended the present option of officials to retire or be retired at the age of 45 years for a further period of three years until 31st March, 1955.

651 The Stamp Duty (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance (No. 20 of 1951), which exempted from stamp duty receipts given in respect of sums of money exceeding *Shs.*30 paid by way of salary, wages, pensions or allowances. This exception applies to members of Her Majesty's Forces as well as to persons in civilian employment.

1952

In 1952, 23 Ordinances were enacted of which the following were the more important :

The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1 of 1952), which granted additional relief in respect of expenses incurred by a tax-payer in sending a child to school or other training establishment outside the Colony, where no suitable educational institution exists in the Colony.

453 The Banking Ordinance (No. 2 of 1952), which is designed to control the establishment and operation of banks in the Colony. It is a measure intended to protect the public from persons carrying on banking business with inadequate financial resources or of whose financial reliability there may be reasonable doubt.

468 The Essential Services (Arbitration) Ordinance (No. 4 of 1952), which provided safeguards against the dangers which might arise to the life and health of the community if certain essential services were interrupted. Such services include the provision of water and electricity, health services, etc. It provided that reference of trade disputes in essential services should be made to an Arbitration Tribunal, whose decision would be binding on both employers and employees, and also that lockouts by employers in such services and strikes by their employees were an offence.

This Ordinance is binding on the Crown as there are essential services in the Colony operated by the Government or by Her Majesty's Forces.

The Ordinance has not yet been brought into operation.

687 The Prevention of Corruption Ordinance (No. 5 of 1952), which introduced more effective measures to combat bribery and corruption.

494 The Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Ordinance (No. 7 of 1952), which introduced compulsory insurance of motor vehicles in